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By George Caragonne, Art Nichols, Jade, P. Zorito and Janet Jackson

THE LEGEND

FAR BEYOND THE WORLD WE KNOW LIES THE MAGICAL MUSHROOM KINGDOM. THERE, THE MUSHROOM PEOPLE LIVED IN PEACE, RULED BY THE KINDLY MUSHROOM KING AND HIS DAUGHTER, PRINCESS TOADSTOOL. LITTLE DID THEY REALIZE THAT EVIL WAS GROWING IN THEIR MIDST...

THE FREEDOM-LOVING FUNGI WERE MENACED BY THE FORCES OF TYRANNY!

THE BIGGEST TROUBLEMAKER WAS A REVOLTING REPTILE AND A DESPICABLE DESPOT--THAT CALLOUS, COLD-BLOODED CREEP, KING BOWSER KOOPA.

WHO WERE YOU EXPECTING? THE TOOTH FAIRY?

TOAD, THE ROYAL MUSHROOM RETAINER, WONDERED... "WHO WOULD SAVE THE KINGDOM?"

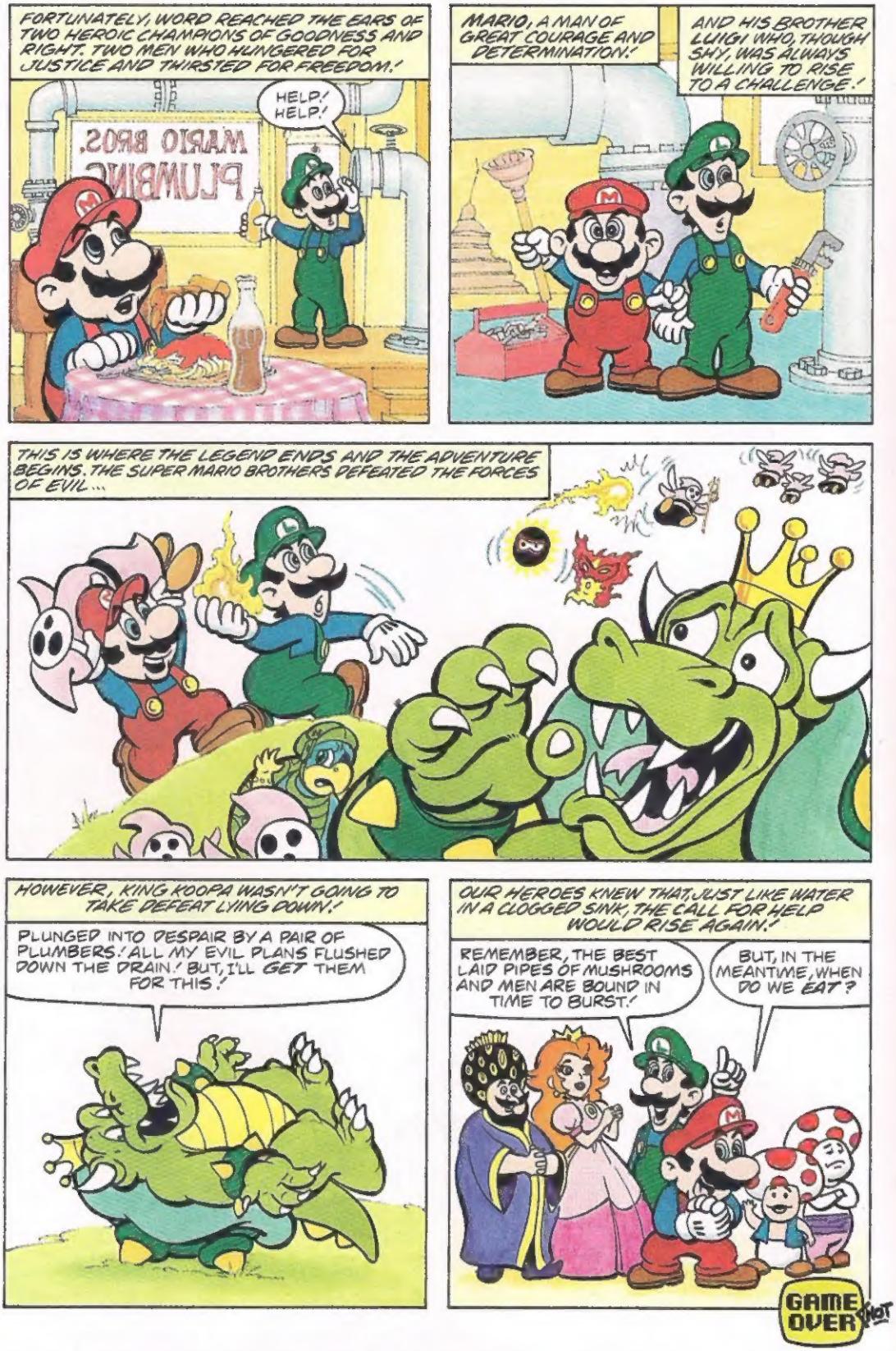
GOOD QUESTION, HUH?

THE KIND, GENTLE, DEMURE PRINCESS TOADSTOOL CALLED FOR HELP.

HELP! HELP!

AND STEP ON IT, OKAY?

TAP TAP TAP


FORTUNATELY, WORD REACHED THE EARS OF TWO HEROIC CHAMPIONS OF GOODNESS AND RIGHT. TWO MEN WHO HUNGERED FOR JUSTICE AND THIRSTED FOR FREEDOM!
HELP! HELP!
MARIO, A MAN OF GREAT COURAGE AND DETERMINATION!
AND HIS BROTHER LUIGI WHO, THOUGH SHY, WAS ALWAYS WILLING TO RISE TO A CHALLENGE!
THIS IS WHERE THE LEGEND ENDS AND THE ADVENTURE BEGINS. THE SUPER MARIO BROTHERS DEFEATED THE FORCES OF EVIL...
HOWEVER, KING KOOPA WASN'T GOING TO TAKE DEFEAT LYING DOWN!
PLUNGED INTO DESPAIR BY A PAIR OF PLUMBERS! ALL MY EVIL PLANS FLUSHED DOWN THE DRAIN! BUT, I'LL GET THEM FOR THIS!
OUR HEROES KNEW THAT, JUST LIKE WATER IN A CLOGGED SINK, THE CALL FOR HELP WOULD RISE AGAIN!
REMEMBER, THE BEST LAID PIPES OF MUSHROOMS AND MEN ARE BOUND IN TIME TO BURST!
BUT, IN THE MEANTIME, WHEN DO WE EAT?
GAME OVER

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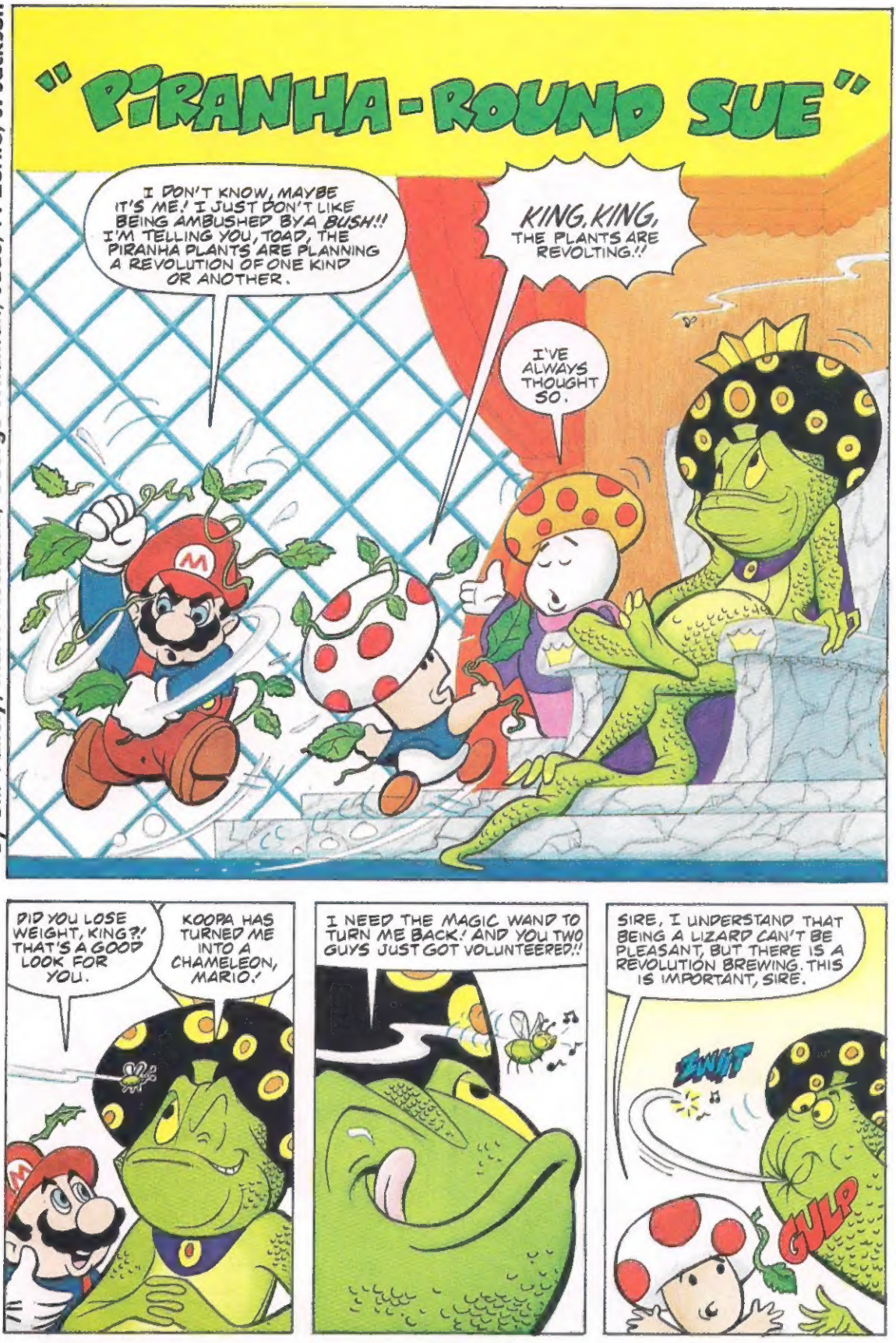
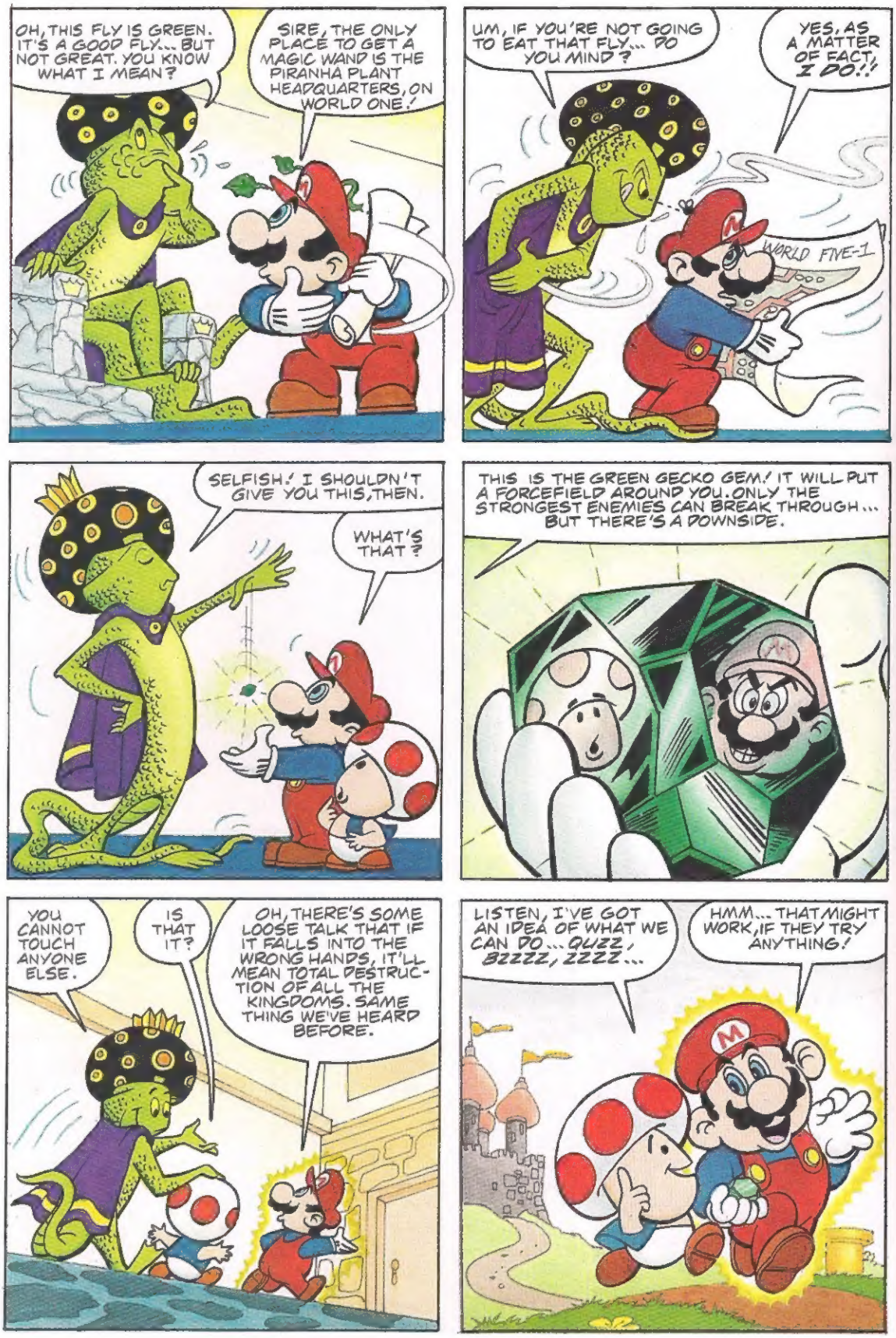
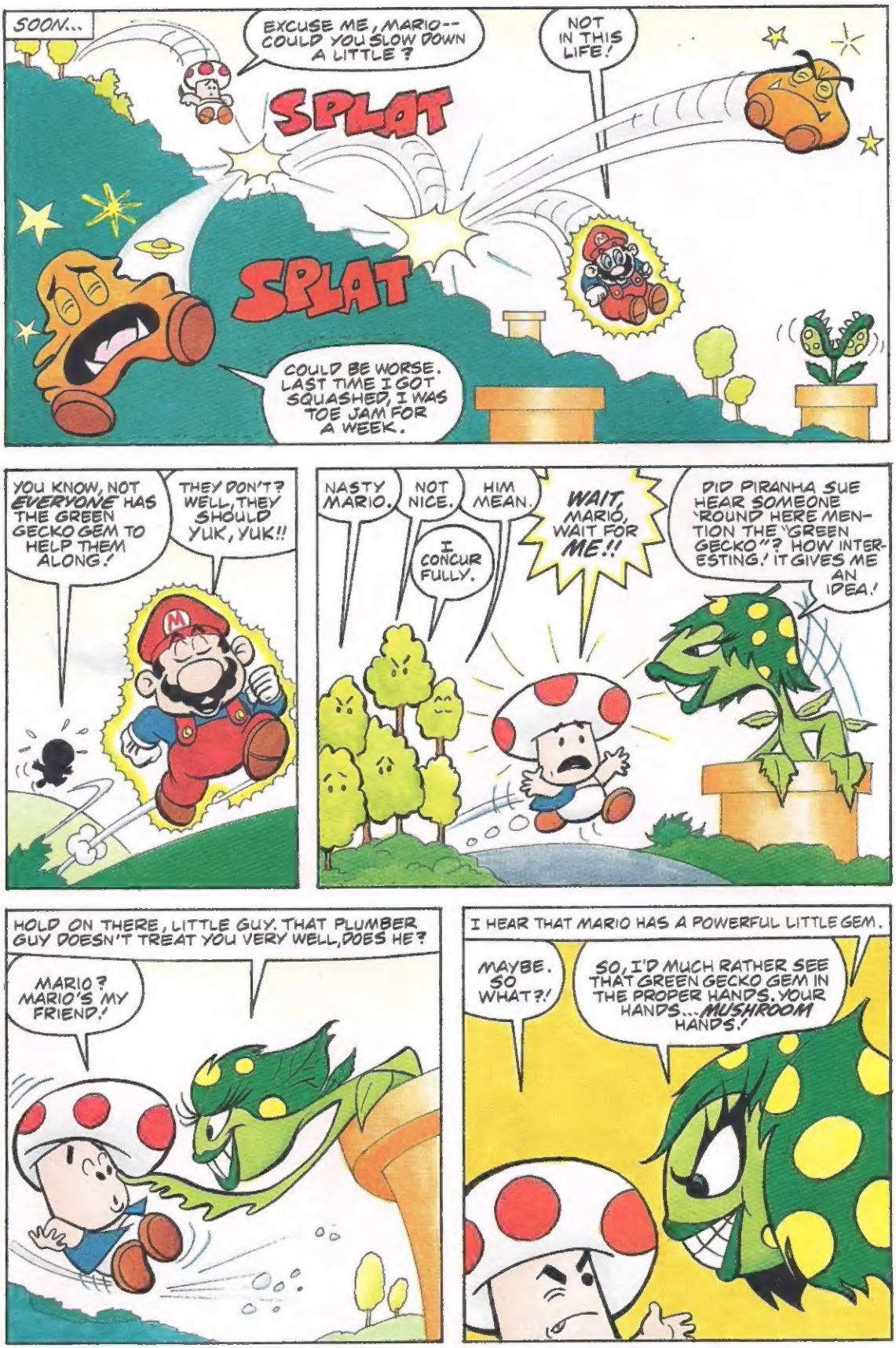
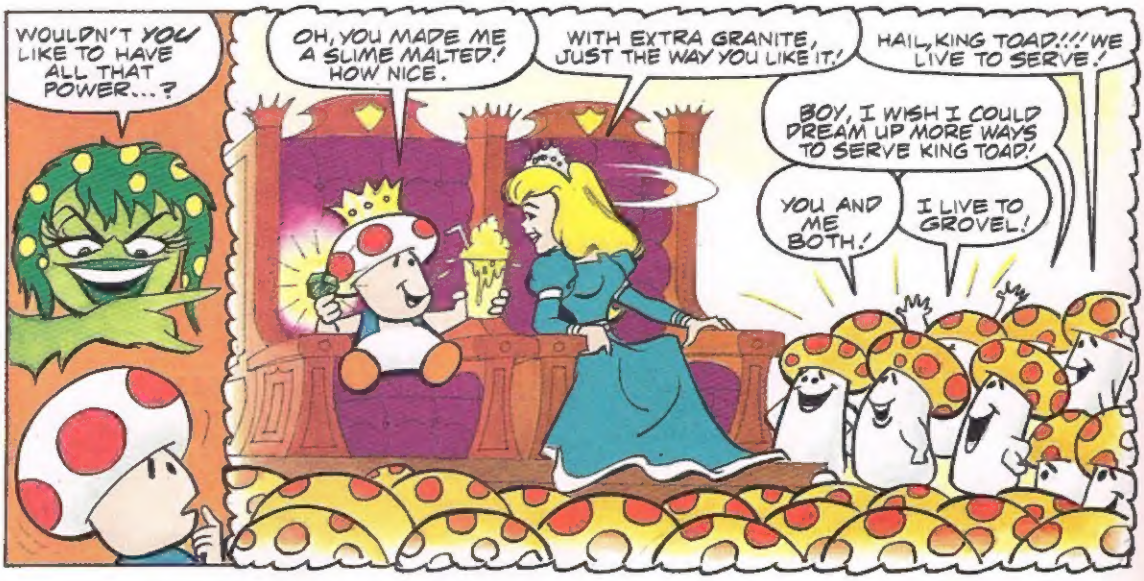
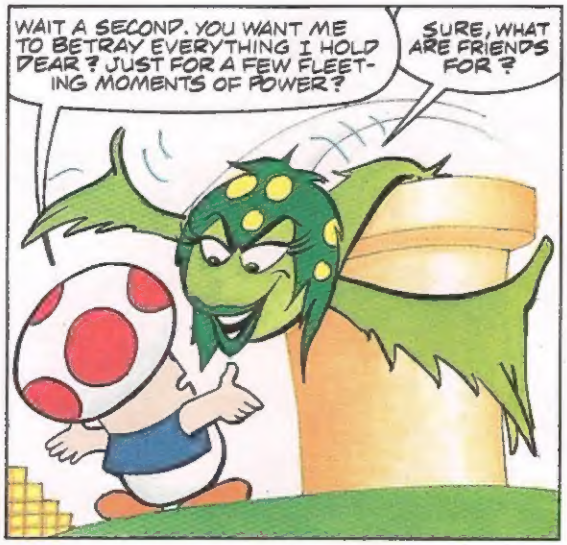
By Bill Vallely, Mark McClellan, George Wildman, Jade, P. Zorito, J. Jackson


"PIRANHA-ROUND SUE"
I DON'T KNOW, MAYBE IT'S ME! I JUST DON'T LIKE BEING AMBUSHED BY A BUSH!! I'M TELLING YOU, TOAD, THE PIRANHA PLANTS ARE PLANNING A REVOLUTION OF ONE KIND OR ANOTHER.
KING, KING, THE PLANTS ARE REVOLTING!!
I'VE ALWAYS THOUGHT SO.
DID YOU LOSE WEIGHT, KING?! THAT'S A GOOD LOOK FOR YOU.
KOOPA HAS TURNED ME INTO A CHAMELEON, MARIO!
I NEED THE MAGIC WAND TO TURN ME BACK! AND YOU TWO GUYS JUST GOT VOLUNTEERED!!
SIRE, I UNDERSTAND THAT BEING A LIZARD CAN'T BE PLEASANT, BUT THERE IS A REVOLUTION BREWING. THIS IS IMPORTANT, SIRE.
ZWIT
GULP

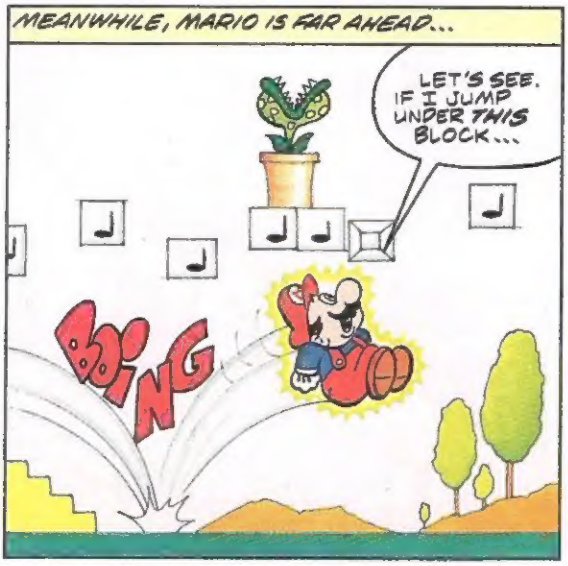

OH, THIS FLY IS GREEN. IT'S A GOOD FLY... BUT NOT GREAT. YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN?
SIRE, THE ONLY PLACE TO GET A MAGIC WAND IS THE PIRANHA PLANT HEADQUARTERS, ON WORLD ONE!
UM, IF YOU'RE NOT GOING TO EAT THAT FLY... DO YOU MIND?
YES, AS A MATTER OF FACT, I DO!!
WORLD FIVE-1
SELFISH! I SHOULDN'T GIVE YOU THIS, THEN.
WHAT'S THAT?
THIS IS THE GREEN GECKO GEM! IT WILL PUT A FORCEFIELD AROUND YOU. ONLY THE STRONGEST ENEMIES CAN BREAK THROUGH... BUT THERE'S A DOWNSIDE.
YOU CANNOT TOUCH ANYONE ELSE.
IS THAT IT?
OH, THERE'S SOME LOOSE TALK THAT IF IT FALLS INTO THE WRONG HANDS, IT'LL MEAN TOTAL DESTRUCTION OF ALL THE KINGDOMS. SAME THING WE'VE HEARD BEFORE.
LISTEN, I'VE GOT AN IDEA OF WHAT WE CAN DO... QUZZ, BZZZZ, ZZZZ...
HMM... THAT MIGHT WORK, IF THEY TRY ANYTHING!


SOON...
EXCUSE ME, MARIO-- COULD YOU SLOW DOWN A LITTLE?
SPLAT
NOT IN THIS LIFE!
SPLAT
COULD BE WORSE. LAST TIME I GOT SQUASHED, I WAS TOE JAM FOR A WEEK.
YOU KNOW, NOT EVERYONE HAS THE GREEN GECKO GEM TO HELP THEM ALONG!
THEY DON'T? WELL, THEY SHOULD YUK, YUK!!
NASTY MARIO.
NOT NICE.
HIM MEAN.
I CONCUR FULLY.
WAIT, MARIO, WAIT FOR ME!!
DID PIRANHA SUE HEAR SOMEONE 'ROUND HERE MENTION THE "GREEN GECKO"? HOW INTERESTING! IT GIVES ME AN IDEA!
HOLD ON THERE, LITTLE GUY. THAT PLUMBER GUY DOESN'T TREAT YOU VERY WELL, DOES HE?
MARIO? MARIO'S MY FRIEND!
I HEAR THAT MARIO HAS A POWERFUL LITTLE GEM.
MAYBE. SO WHAT?!
SO, I'D MUCH RATHER SEE THAT GREEN GECKO GEM IN THE PROPER HANDS. YOUR HANDS... MUSHROOM HANDS!

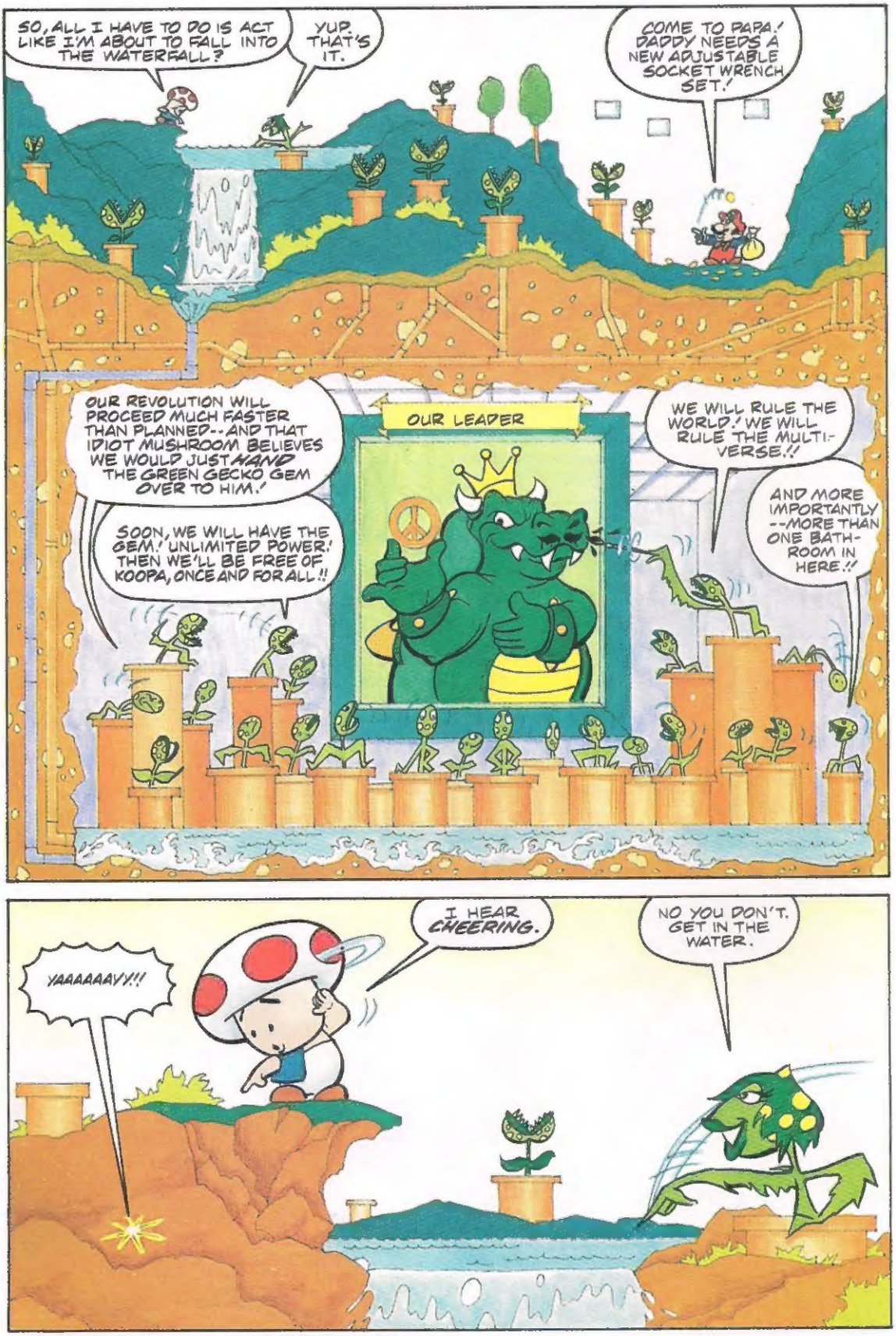

WOULDN'T YOU LIKE TO HAVE ALL THAT POWER...?
OH, YOU MADE ME A SLIME MALTED! HOW NICE.
WITH EXTRA GRANITE, JUST THE WAY YOU LIKE IT!
HAIL, KING TOAD!!! WE LIVE TO SERVE!
BOY, I WISH I COULD DREAM UP MORE WAYS TO SERVE KING TOAD!
YOU AND ME BOTH!
I LIVE TO GROVEL!

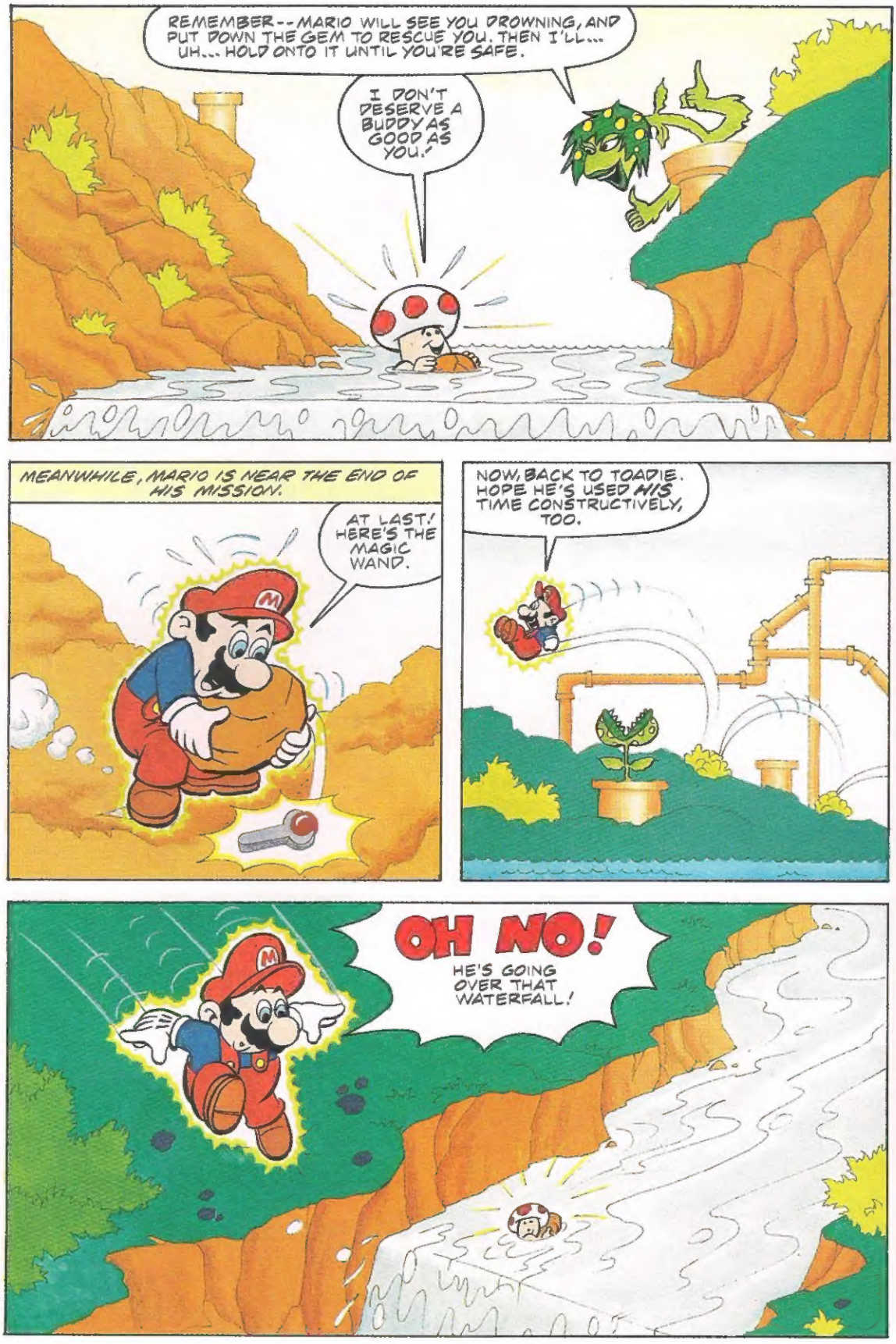

WAIT A SECOND. YOU WANT ME TO BETRAY EVERYTHING I HOLD DEAR? JUST FOR A FEW FLEETING MOMENTS OF POWER?
SURE, WHAT ARE FRIENDS FOR?

OKAY. TELL ME MORE.
IT'S SO PLEASANT WORKING WITH REASONABLE FUNGUS.

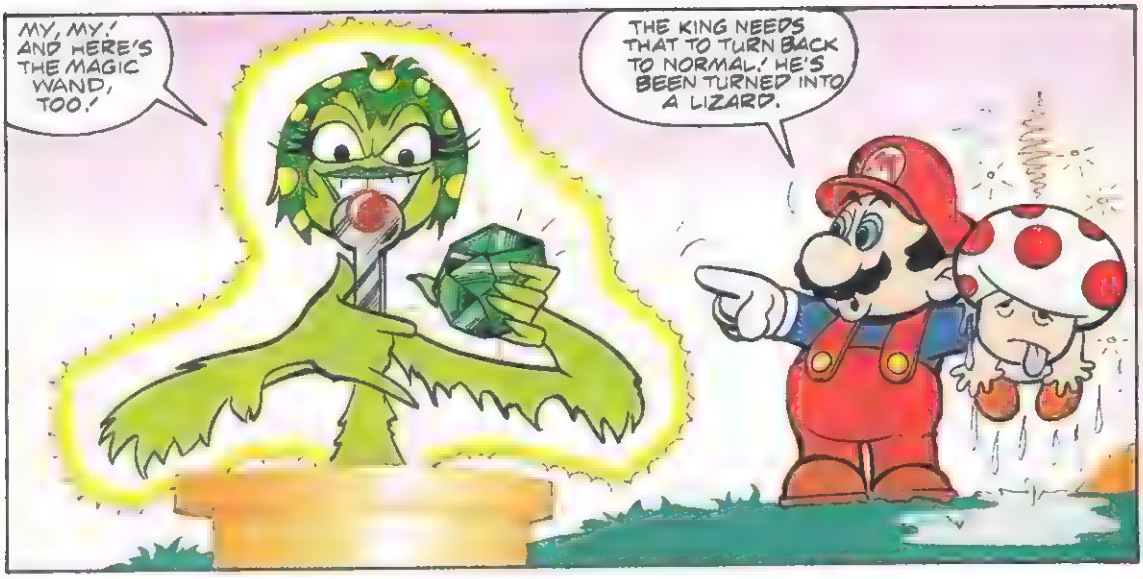

MEANWHILE, MARIO IS FAR AHEAD...
LET'S SEE. IF I JUMP UNDER THIS BLOCK...
BOING

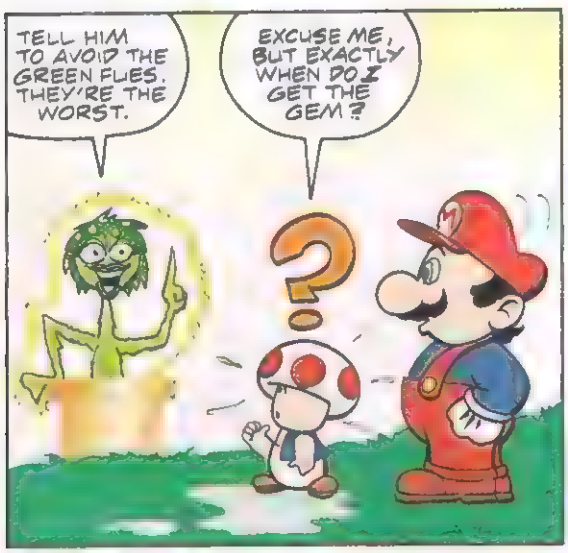
THERE ARE SUCH THINGS AS PRIORITIES.


SO, ALL I HAVE TO DO IS ACT LIKE I'M ABOUT TO FALL INTO THE WATERFALL?
YUP. THAT'S IT.
COME TO PAPA! DADDY NEEDS A NEW ADJUSTABLE SOCKET WRENCH SET!
OUR REVOLUTION WILL PROCEED MUCH FASTER THAN PLANNED--AND THAT IDIOT MUSHROOM BELIEVES WE WOULD JUST *HAND* THE GREEN GECKO GEM OVER TO HIM!
SOON, WE WILL HAVE THE GEM! UNLIMITED POWER! THEN WE'LL BE FREE OF KOOPA, ONCE AND FOR ALL!!
OUR LEADER
WE WILL RULE THE WORLD! WE WILL RULE THE MULTI-VERSE!!
AND MORE IMPORTANTLY --MORE THAN ONE BATH-ROOM IN HERE!!
YAAAAAAAY!!
I HEAR *CHEERING*.
NO YOU DON'T. GET IN THE WATER.

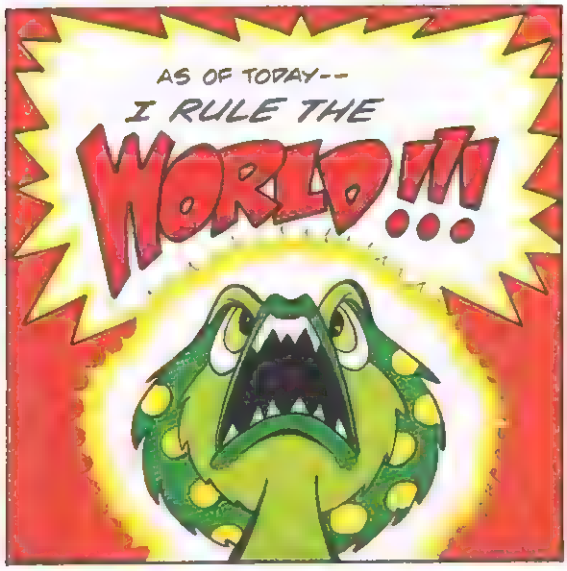

REMEMBER--MARIO WILL SEE YOU DROWNING, AND PUT DOWN THE GEM TO RESCUE YOU. THEN I'LL... UH... HOLD ONTO IT UNTIL YOU'RE SAFE.
I DON'T DESERVE A BUDDY AS GOOD AS YOU!
MEANWHILE, MARIO IS NEAR THE END OF HIS MISSION.
AT LAST! HERE'S THE MAGIC WAND.
NOW, BACK TO TOADIE. HOPE HE'S USED HIS TIME CONSTRUCTIVELY, TOO.
OH NO!
HE'S GOING OVER THAT WATERFALL!

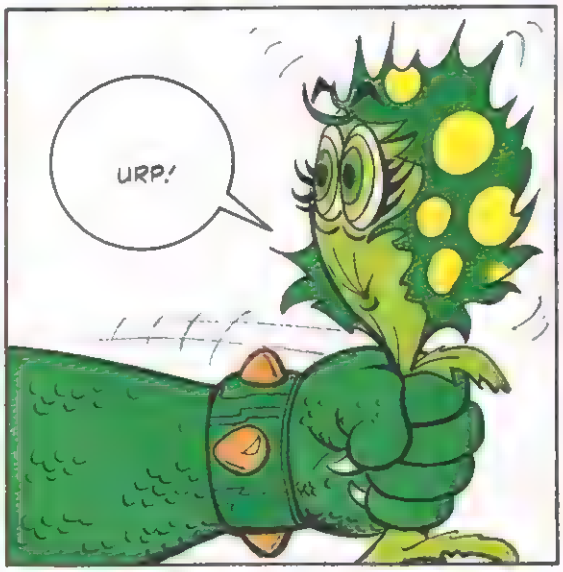
IS THERE ANY PARTICULAR REASON YOU'RE IN THAT CREEK?!
LET'S TALK ABOUT IT IN GREAT DETAIL ...AFTER YOU'VE PULLED ME OUT!
I CAN'T GRAB YOU AS LONG AS I'M HOLDING THE GEM. YOU KNOW THAT.
MARIO, NO KIDDING, I'M BEGINNING TO SLIP!! LOSE THE STUPID GEM ALREADY!
NO CAN DO, BUDDY-O-MINE. SOMEONE COULD STEAL THE GEM!
MARIO, FORGET IT! SOMETHING'S REALLY GOT MY FOOT!! NO KIDDING!
TOADE..!!
THE GEM'S MINE!!


MY, MY! AND HERE'S THE MAGIC WAND, TOO!
THE KING NEEDS THAT TO TURN BACK TO NORMAL! HE'S BEEN TURNED INTO A LIZARD.

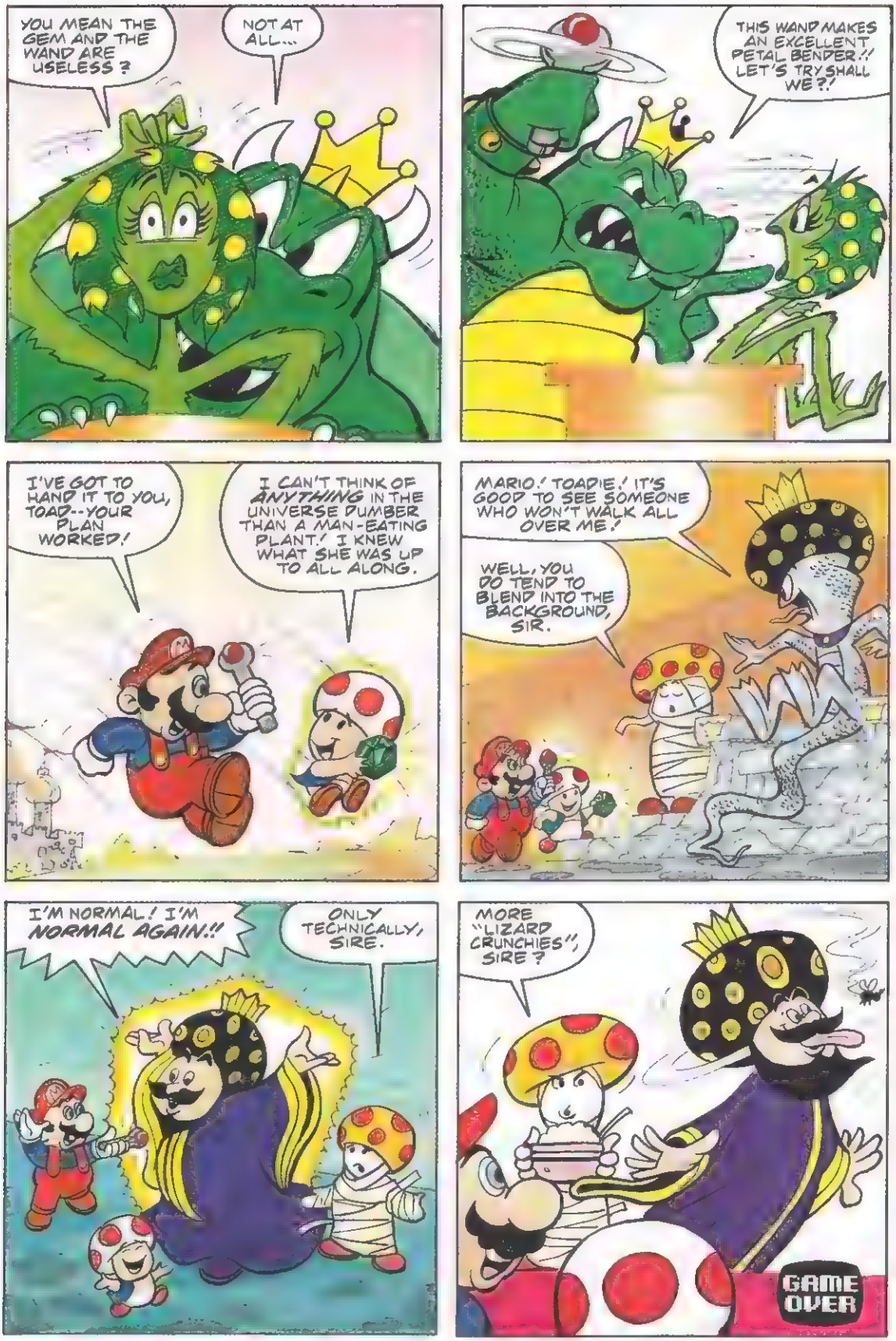

TELL HIM TO AVOID THE GREEN FLIES. THEY'RE THE WORST.
EXCUSE ME, BUT EXACTLY WHEN DO I GET THE GEM?

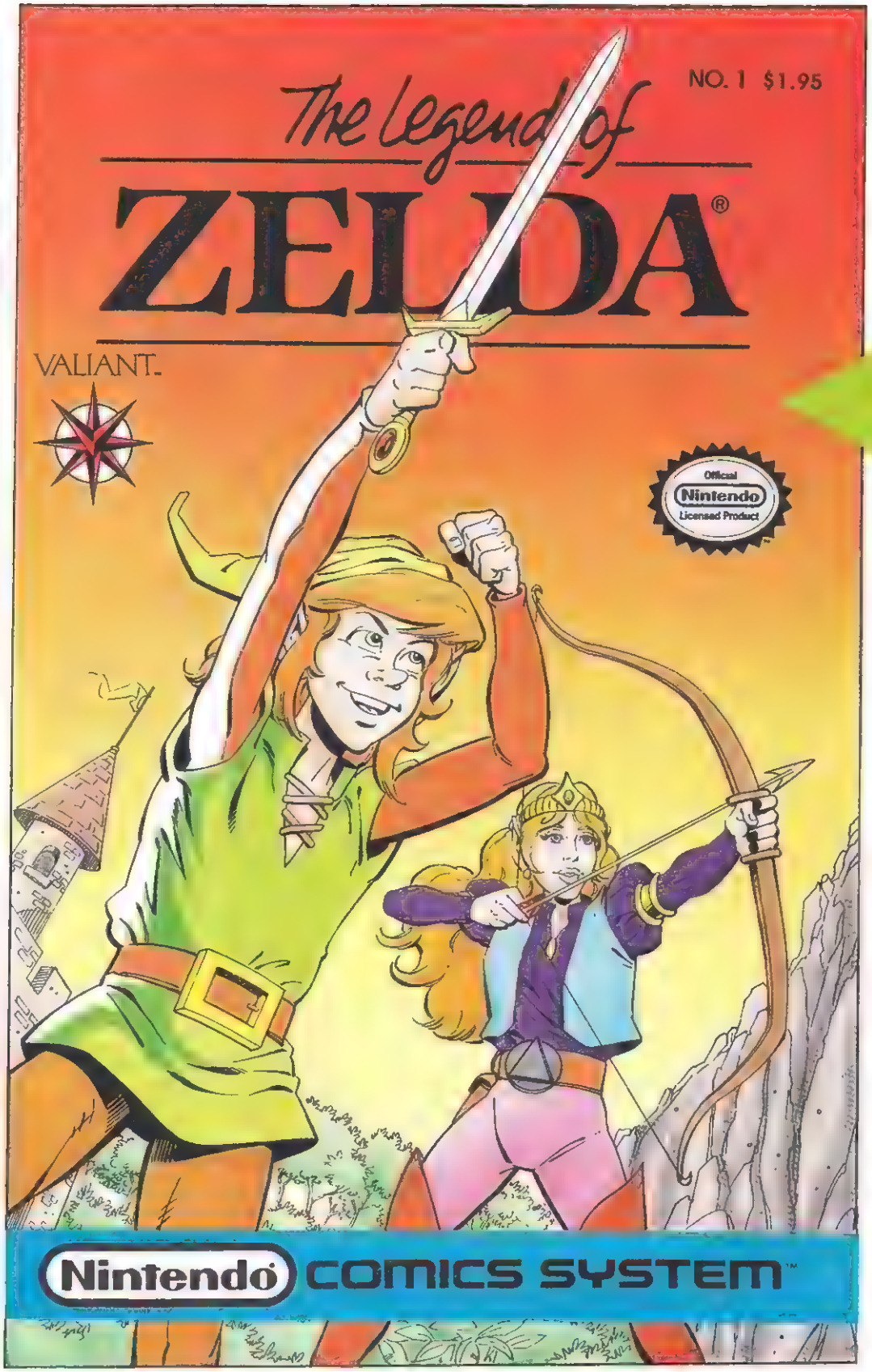
YOU FOOL!!!
NOW I AM INVINCIBLE! ALL THE PIRANHA PLANTS ARE INVINCIBLE!


AS OF TODAY--
I RULE THE WORLD!!!


URP!

SO, YOU'RE LEADER OF THE WORLD, HUH?
DID I SAY THAT?
YOU KNOW, I'VE HAD A TOUGH DAY. FIRST, SOME PLUMBER GUY THROWS A PLUNGER AT ME, YELLING "NYAH, NYAH, YOU CAN'T CATCH ME!" I CHASED THAT MORON FOR MILES, STUB A CLAW DOING IT... AND NOW, I FIND YOU TALKING ABOUT WORLD CONQUEST!!
OH, YOU THOUGHT I WAS TALKING ABOUT CONQUERING IT FOR ME! No No No No!
WELL, MR. KOOPA, KING, SIR--FOR YOU, WE'VE GOT A MAGIC WAND AND A MAGIC GEM! JUST BECAUSE, WELL, BECAUSE YOU RE YOU.
MAGIC WAND? MAGIC GEM? CHEESY TRINKETS LIKE THOSE ARE NOTHING TO KOOPA THE GREAT AN POWERFUL!
LOOK AT THIS..."BROOKLYN PLUMBING NOVELTY COMPANY"? "SERVING YOUR PLUMBING NOVELTY NEEDS FOR NEARLY 100TH OF A CENTURY"?!!
YOU IDIOT!!!


YOU MEAN THE GEM AND THE WAND ARE USELESS ?
NOT AT ALL...
THIS WAND MAKES AN EXCELLENT PETAL BENDER !! LET'S TRY SHALL WE ?!
I'VE GOT TO HAND IT TO YOU, TOAD--YOUR PLAN WORKED!
I CAN'T THINK OF ANYTHING IN THE UNIVERSE DUMBER THAN A MAN-EATING PLANT! I KNEW WHAT SHE WAS UP TO ALL ALONG.
MARIO! TOADIE! IT'S GOOD TO SEE SOMEONE WHO WON'T WALK ALL OVER ME!
WELL, YOU DO TEND TO BLEND INTO THE BACKGROUND, SIR.
I'M NORMAL! I'M NORMAL AGAIN!!
ONLY TECHNICALLY, SIRE.
MORE "LIZARD CRUNCHIES", SIRE ?
GAME OVER



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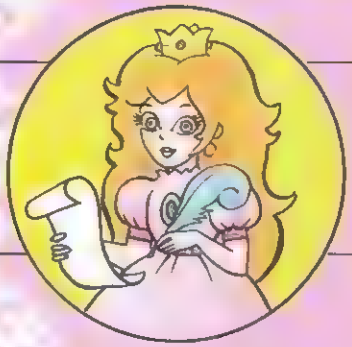

Dear Princess Toadstool

Dear Princess Toadstool,

I'm a successful tyrant, and I'm sure I'd be pretty popular with the ladies if I had a really keen nickname! It may sound crazy, but I've always wanted to be called "Muffin"!

Here's my question: where do you steal a nickname?

Tyrantly yours,
Koopa

Dear Koopa:

You don't steal nicknames... you earn them! If you want people to call you "Muffin," you have to give them a reason.

For a start, I'd suggest eating at least a hundred muffins a day. If that doesn't work, try sending every citizen of Mushroomland a hundred-koopabit bill along with a note signed, "From your friend, Muffin."

Dear Princess Toadstool,

My name is "Phanto" and, yes, I wear a mask like the Phantom of the Opera. So here's my beef: every time I visit someone's house, what kind of music do they play? Opera. And I hate opera!

If I have to listen to one more lady Viking shriek in German, I'm going to go crazy!

Sincerely,
Phanto

Dear Phanto:

Try taking along your own records when you go out. If your friends still insist on playing opera, try changing your name to "Elvis." Or "Muffin." And if that doesn't work, you might consider moving to another aria.

Dear Princess Toadstool,

My name is Luigi, and I have a brother named Mario. So far so good, right? The problem is, wherever we go, people say: "Here come the Mario Brothers!"

It's annoying! I'd rather we were called the Luigi Brothers.

How can I get equal time in the "name game"?

Sincerely,
Luigi

Dear Luigi:

Ever thought of changing your name to "Muffin"?

Until next column, that's it from Princess "Muffin" Toadstool...

"Hey, it's twice th
and now it's every

e power, month!"

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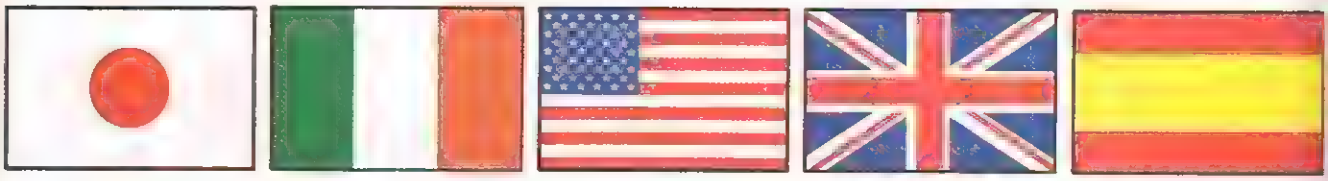

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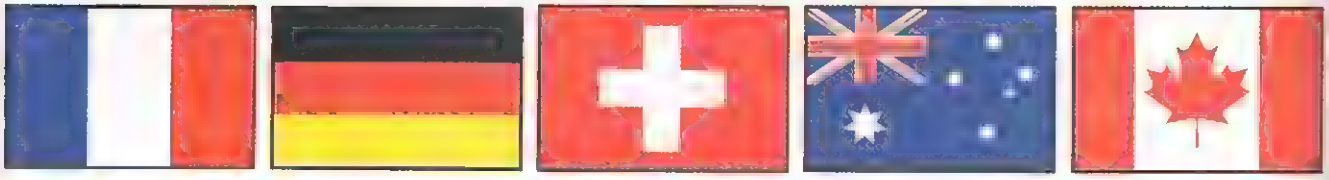
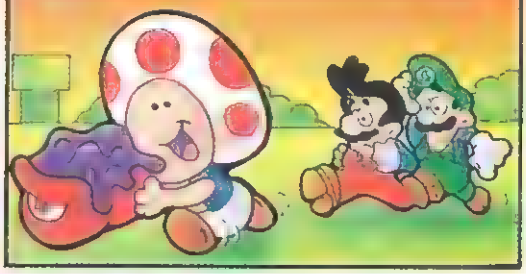


KOOPA'S Believe It or Else!

By John Walker, Ken Lopez, Barry Goldberg

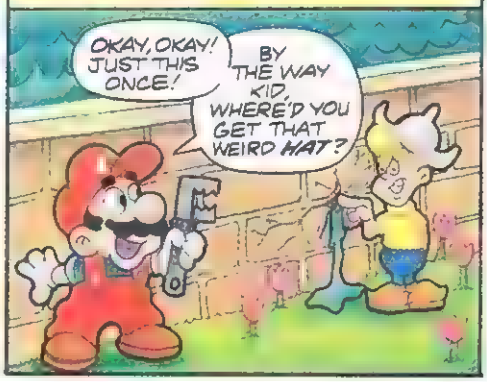
IN LIZARD LANGUAGE, "KOOPA" MEANS "THING OF BEAUTY."

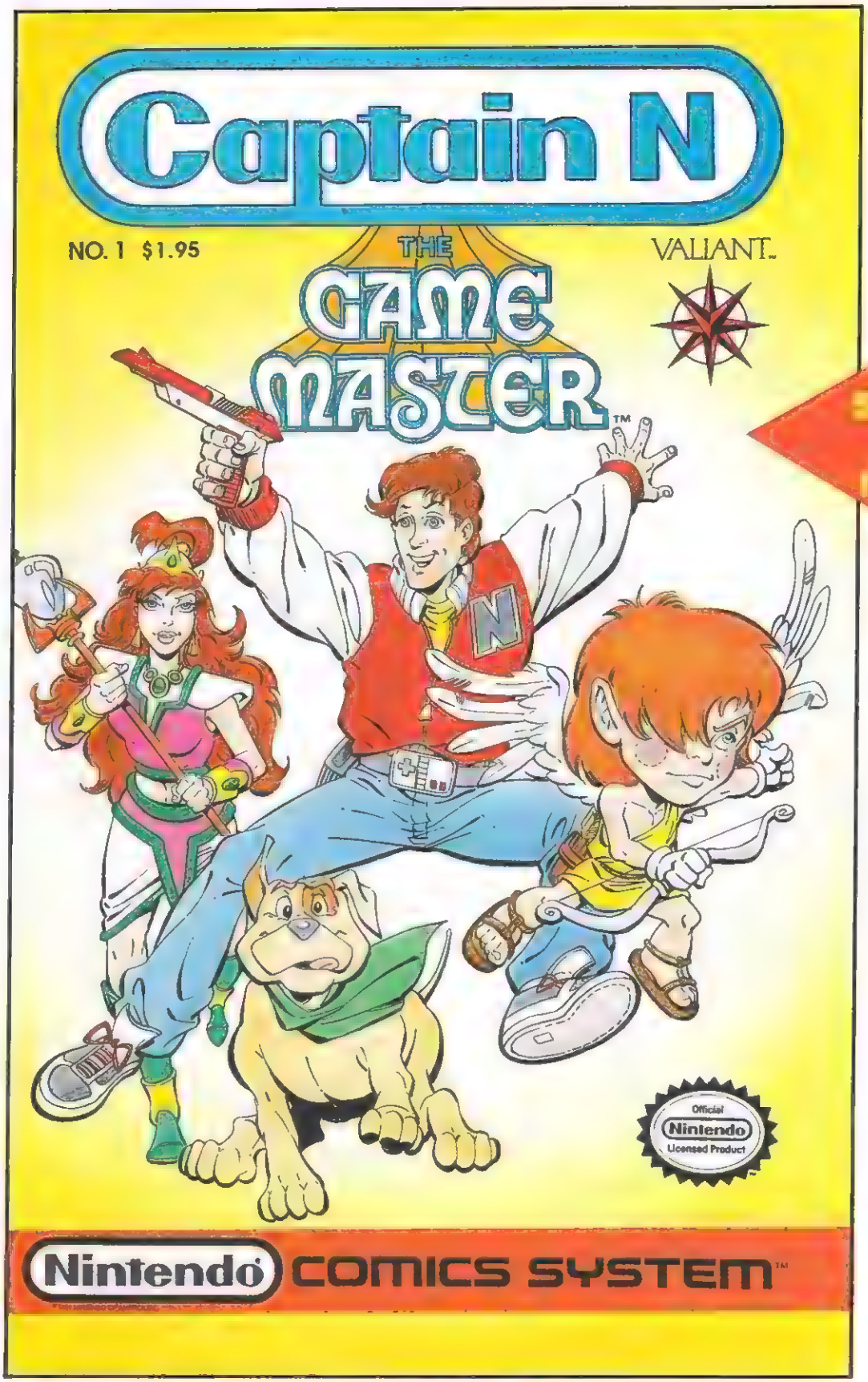
IN BROOKLYN, STUFFED MUSHROOM CAPS ARE A GREAT DELICACY. STRANGELY ENOUGH, IN MUSHROOM LAND, STUFFED PLUMBER'S CAPS ARE A FAVORITE HORS 'D'OEUVRE!



THE KING OF MUSHROOMLAND HAS OVER 2,000,000 CROWNS IN HIS COLLECTION... BUT ONLY ONE PAIR OF SOCKS!

ON APRIL 9 LAST YEAR, A PLUMBER ACTUALLY MADE A HOUSE CALL. (THE LOCAL NATIVES APPRECIATED IT VERY MUCH.)

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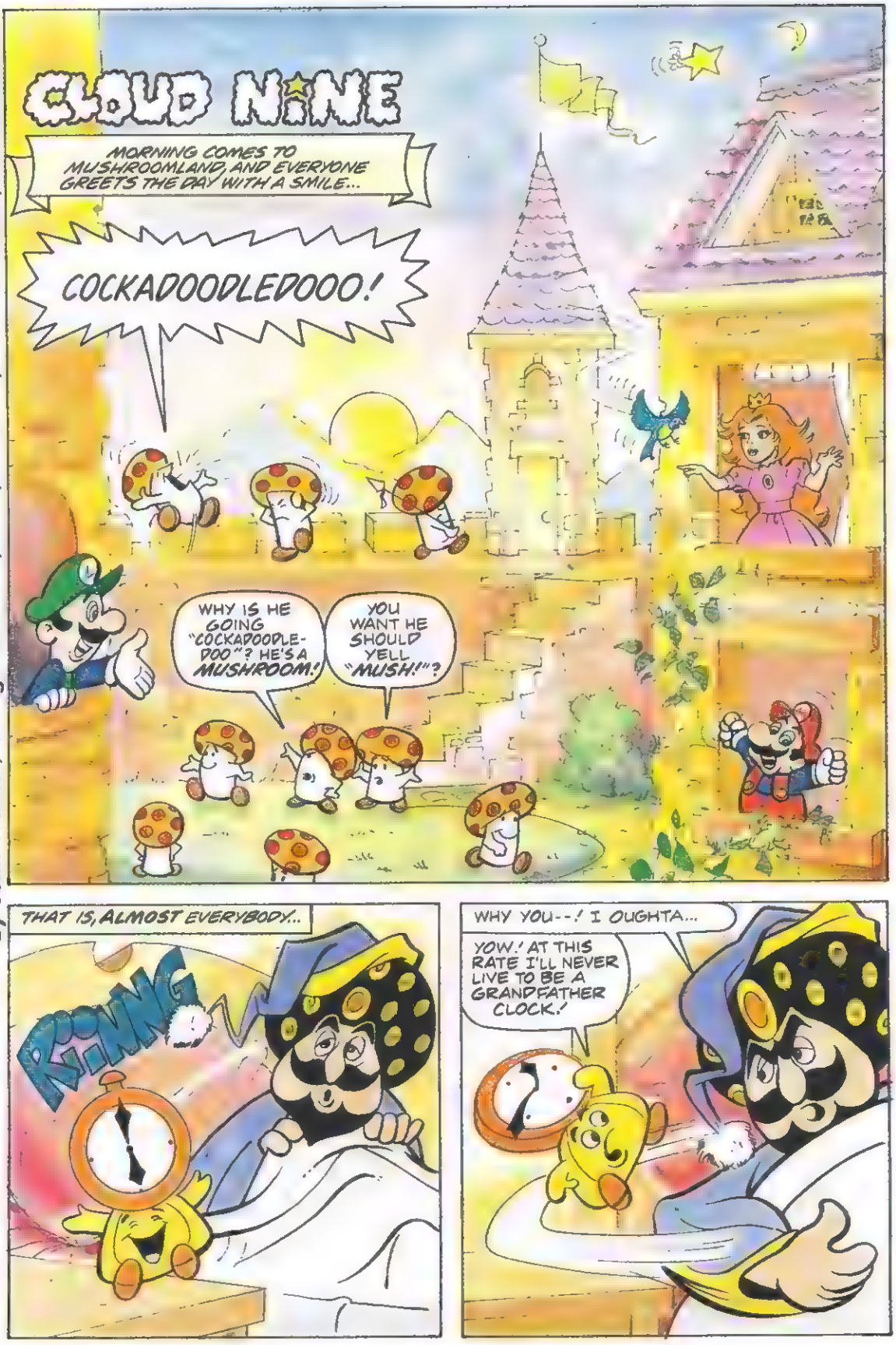
THE GAME MASTER™
VALIANT
ON SALE IN MAY
Official Nintendo Licensed Product
Nintendo COMICS SYSTEM™

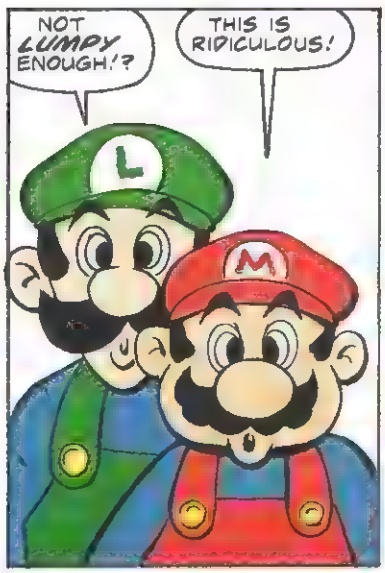
By John Walker, George Wildman, Jade, P. Zorito, Andrea Brooks, The Gradations

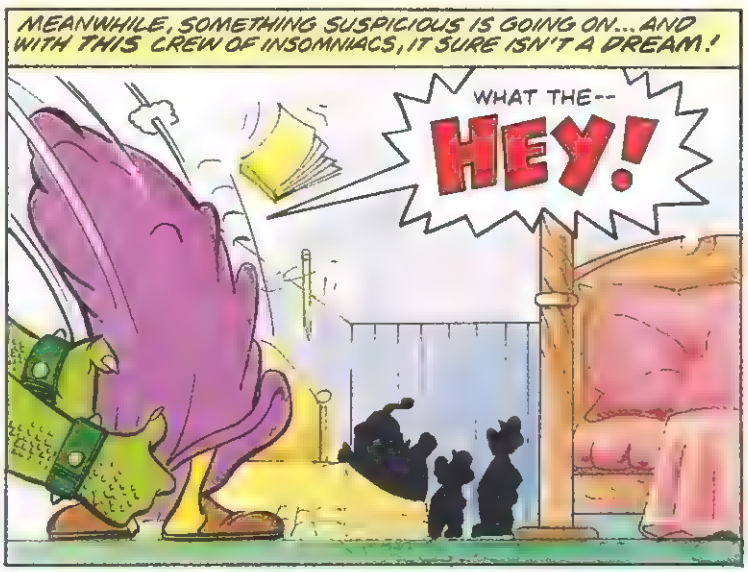

CLOUD NINE
MORNING COMES TO MUSHROOMLAND, AND EVERYONE GREETS THE DAY WITH A SMILE...
COCKADOODLEDOOO!
WHY IS HE GOING "COCKADOODLE-DOO"? HE'S A MUSHROOM!
YOU WANT HE SHOULD YELL "MUSH!"?
THAT IS, ALMOST EVERYBODY..
RRINNG
WHY YOU--! I OUGHTA...
YOW! AT THIS RATE I'LL NEVER LIVE TO BE A GRANDFATHER CLOCK!

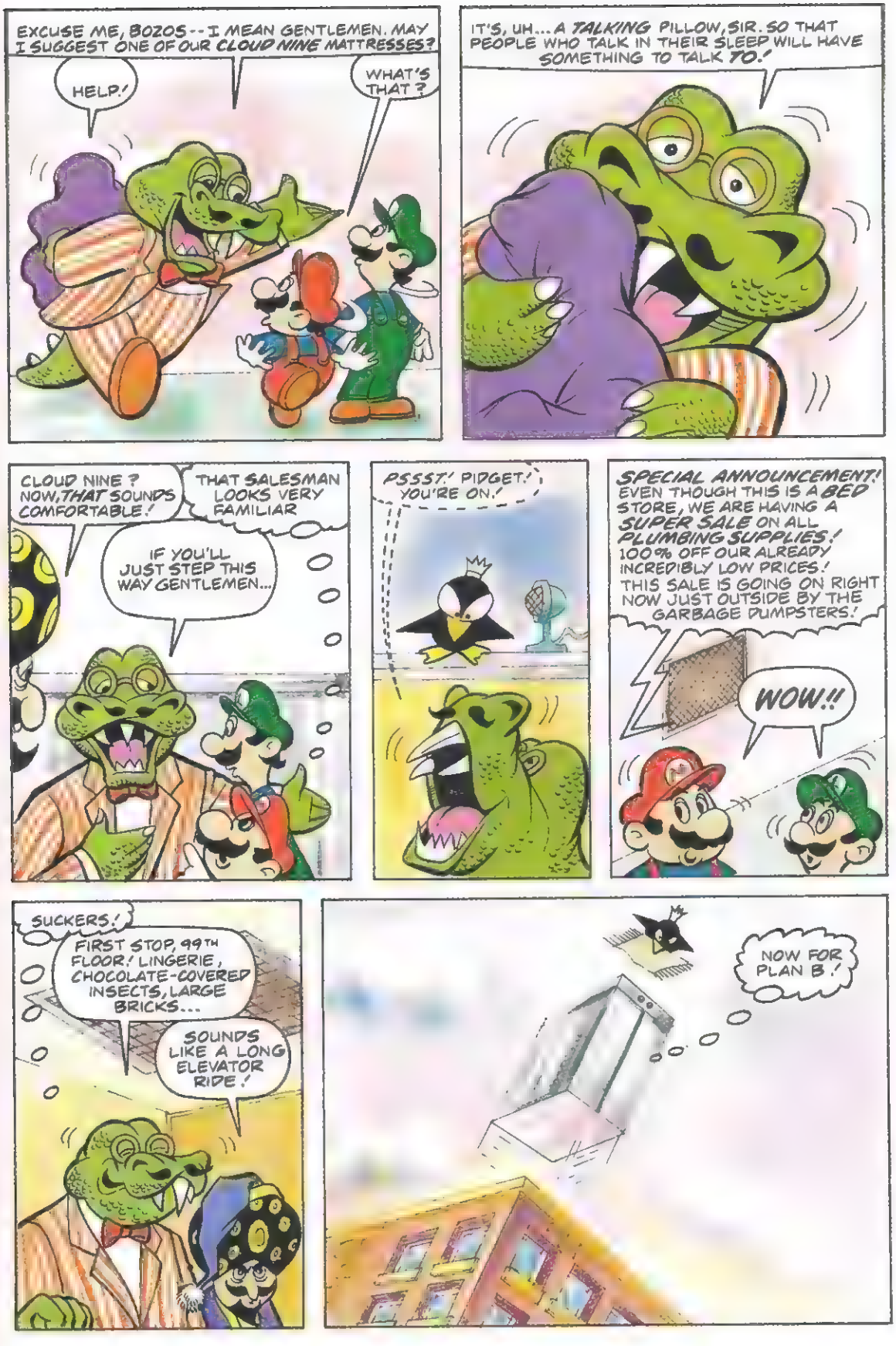
WAHHHHHHHHHHHHH!
GRUMBLE GRUMBLE GROWL...
LOOKS LIKE THE KING GOT UP ON THE WRONG SIDE OF THE ROYAL BED!
SO WHAT ELSE IS NEW?
YEOWW!
TEA HEA...I MEAN, TEE HEE! ANOTHER ROUGH NIGHT, YOUR CRANKINESS?
DADDY! WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU? YOU SCARED THE TICK-TOCK OUT OF POOR STOPWATCH!
GRUMBLE... IT'S THAT DRATTED BED OF MINE! THE MATTRESS HAS MORE LUMPS IN IT THAN A BOWL OF OATMEAL.
I THINK IT'S TIME TO BUY A NEW BED!
YOU CAN SAY THAT AGAIN!

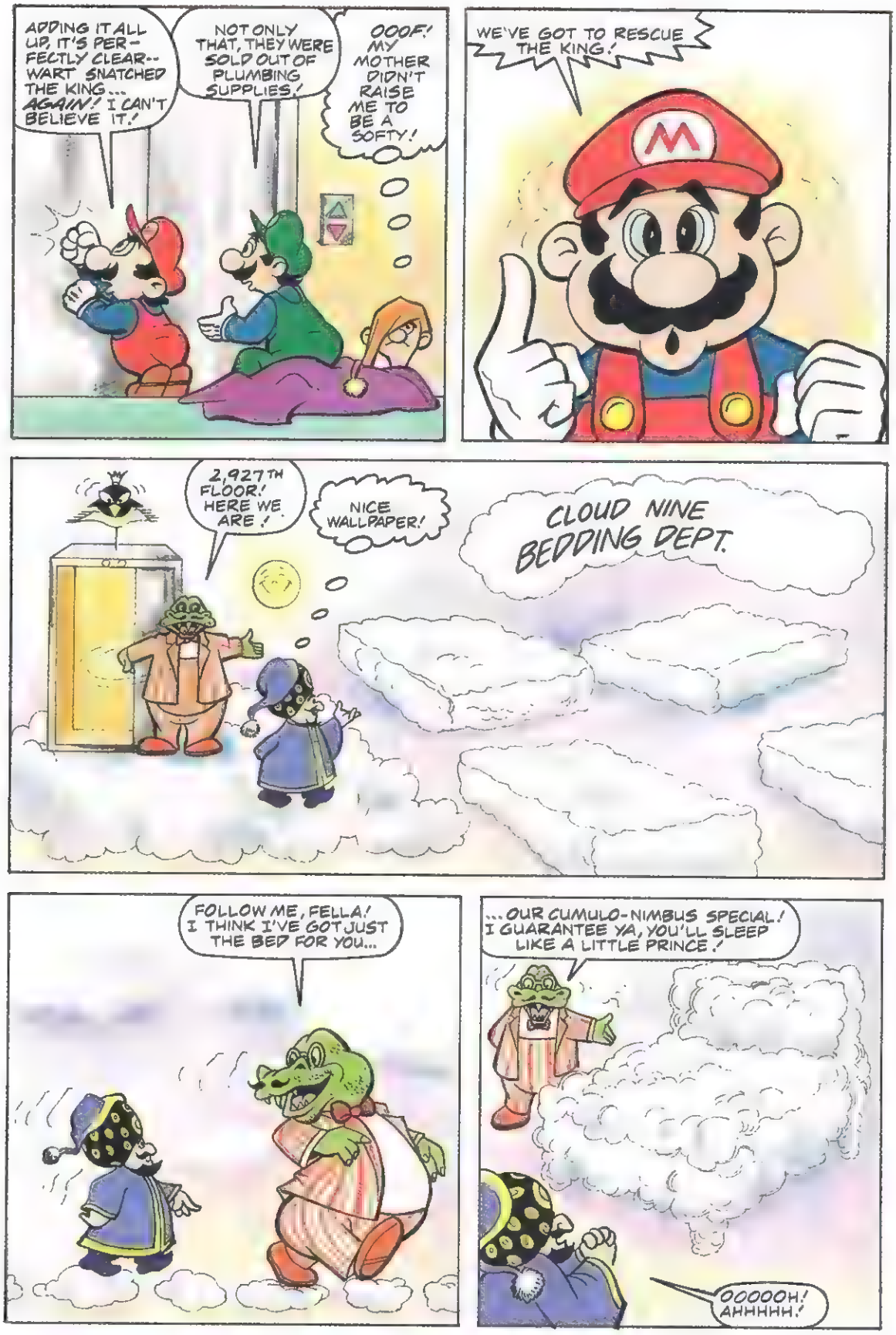
THAT AFTERNOON...
THIS LOOKS LIKE THE PLACE!
SNOOZE WORLD
OVER 40 MILLION WINKS SOLD
A DIVISION OF WART ENTERPRISES
SOUNDS LIKE IT, TOO!
SNORE
SNORE
SNORE
WELCOME TO SNOOZE WORLD! WHAT CAN I DO YOU FOR TODAY?
WHY DO SALESMEN ALWAYS HAVE SUCH BOUNCY PERSONALITIES?
BOING
BOING
BOING
BOING
THE KING OF MUSHROOMLAND NEEDS A NEW BED.
WALK THIS WAY, GENTLEMEN! I'LL SHOW YOU SOMETHING IN A "KING-SIZE"!
TWIN BEDS
IDENTICAL
FRATERNAL

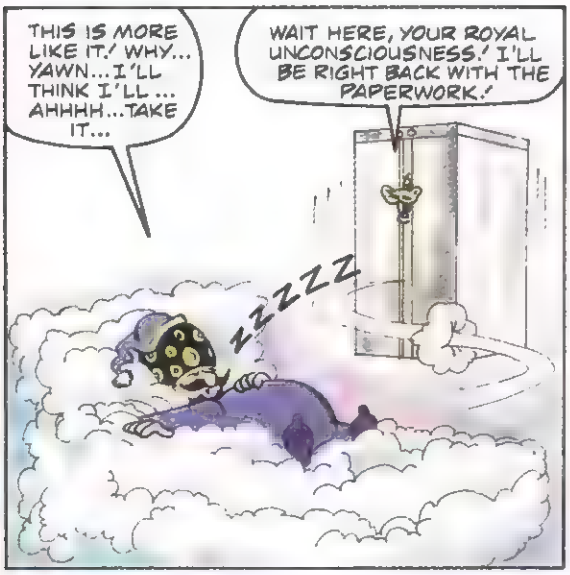
TOO HARD!
TOO SOFT!
THE KING SURE HAS MUDDY FEET!
TOO LUMPY!
THIS ONE LOOKS OKAY TO ME...
NOT LUMPY ENOUGH!


NOT LUMPY ENOUGH!?
THIS IS RIDICULOUS!

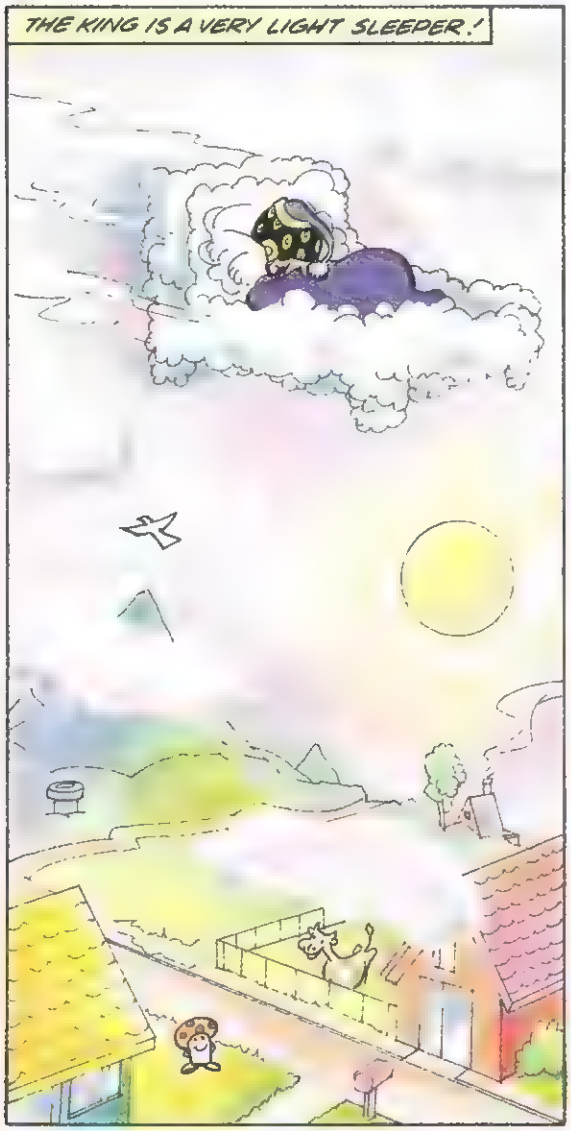

MEANWHILE, SOMETHING SUSPICIOUS IS GOING ON... AND WITH THIS CREW OF INSOMNIACS, IT SURE ISN'T A DREAM!
WHAT THE--
HEY!

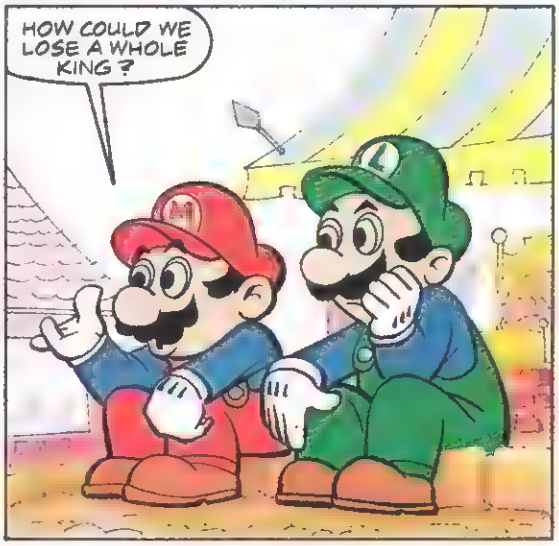

EXCUSE ME, BOZOS -- I MEAN GENTLEMEN. MAY I SUGGEST ONE OF OUR CLOUD NINE MATTRESSES?
HELP!
WHAT'S THAT?
IT'S, UH... A TALKING PILLOW, SIR. SO THAT PEOPLE WHO TALK IN THEIR SLEEP WILL HAVE SOMETHING TO TALK TO.
CLOUD NINE? NOW, THAT SOUNDS COMFORTABLE!
THAT SALESMAN LOOKS VERY FAMILIAR
IF YOU'LL JUST STEP THIS WAY GENTLEMEN...
PSSST! PIDGET! YOU'RE ON!
SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT! EVEN THOUGH THIS IS A BED STORE, WE ARE HAVING A SUPER SALE ON ALL PLUMBING SUPPLIES! 100% OFF OUR ALREADY INCREDIBLY LOW PRICES! THIS SALE IS GOING ON RIGHT NOW JUST OUTSIDE BY THE GARBAGE DUMPSTERS!
WOW!!
SUCKERS!
FIRST STOP, 99TH FLOOR! LINGERIE, CHOCOLATE-COVERED INSECTS, LARGE BRICKS...
SOUNDS LIKE A LONG ELEVATOR RIDE!
NOW FOR PLAN B!


ADDING IT ALL UP, IT'S PERFECTLY CLEAR-- WART SNATCHED THE KING... AGAIN! I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
NOT ONLY THAT, THEY WERE SOLD OUT OF PLUMBING SUPPLIES!
OOOF! MY MOTHER DIDN'T RAISE ME TO BE A SOFTY!
WE'VE GOT TO RESCUE THE KING!
2,927TH FLOOR! HERE WE ARE!
NICE WALLPAPER!
CLOUD NINE BEDDING DEPT.
FOLLOW ME, FELLA! I THINK I'VE GOT JUST THE BED FOR YOU...
...OUR CUMULO-NIMBUS SPECIAL! I GUARANTEE YA, YOU'LL SLEEP LIKE A LITTLE PRINCE!
OOOOOH! AHHHHH!


THIS IS MORE LIKE IT.! WHY... YAWN... I'LL THINK I'LL... AHHHH... TAKE IT...
WAIT HERE, YOUR ROYAL UNCONSCIOUSNESS.! I'LL BE RIGHT BACK WITH THE PAPERWORK.!
ZZZZZ

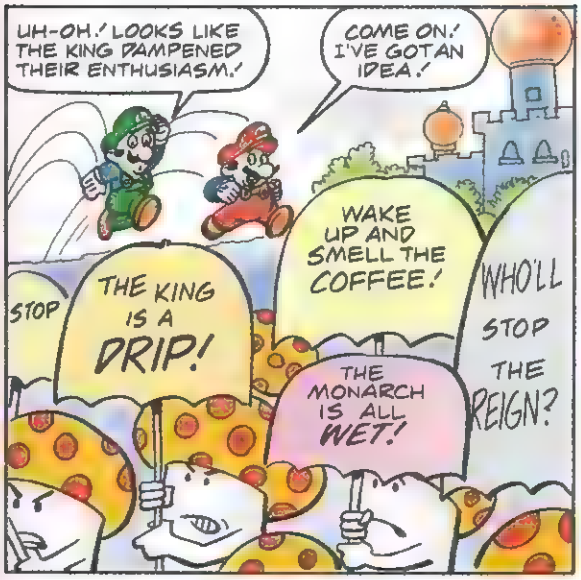
IN YOUR DREAMS, SUCKER.!

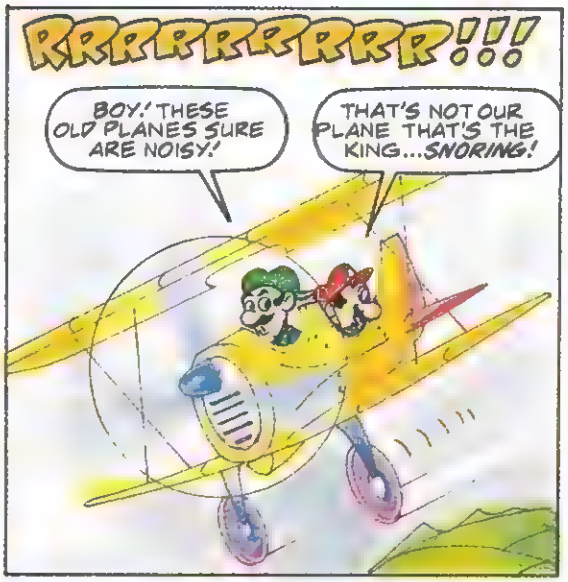

THE KING IS A VERY LIGHT SLEEPER.!

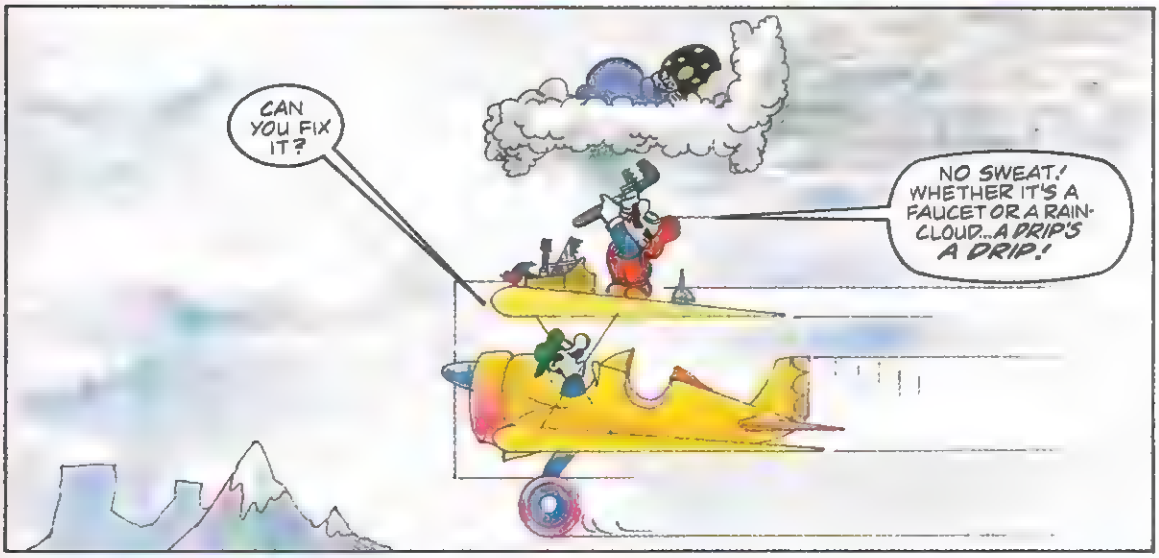

HOW COULD WE LOSE A WHOLE KING?

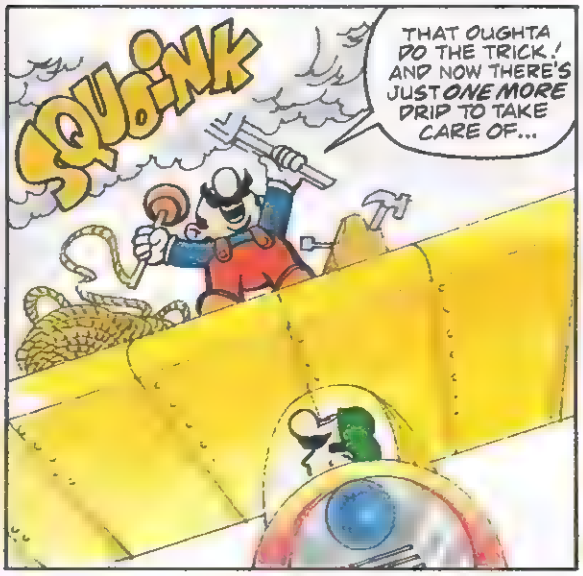
WHAT'S THAT?
A CLUE?
SNORE

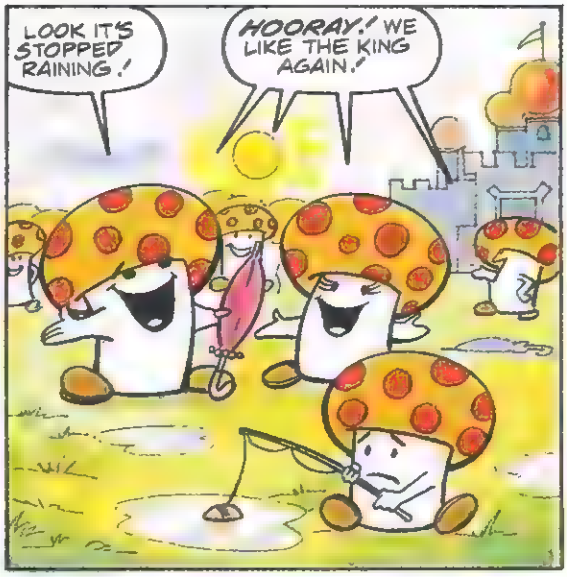
MORE EGG SALAD, ANYBODY?
NO THANKS. IT GIVES ME SPORES.
ZZZZZ
HEH, HEH! THIS IS GONNA BE EXCELLENT...
RUMBLE
HEY, LOOKIT! IT'S THE KING! LOOK IT, LOOK IT--I SAID, LOOKIT!!!
ZZZZZ
OH, NO! OUR PICNIC IS RUINED!
THE KING IS BEING A ROYAL PAIN!
HE RAINS OVER US!
THAT'S FUNNY! I THOUGHT I JUST SAW DADDY FLOAT BY!
ZZZZ
MAYBE YOU'RE GETTING TOO MUCH SUN!
SHRIEK! MY LAUNDRY!
TOO MUCH SUN! HAW!!! I CRACK MYSELF UP!

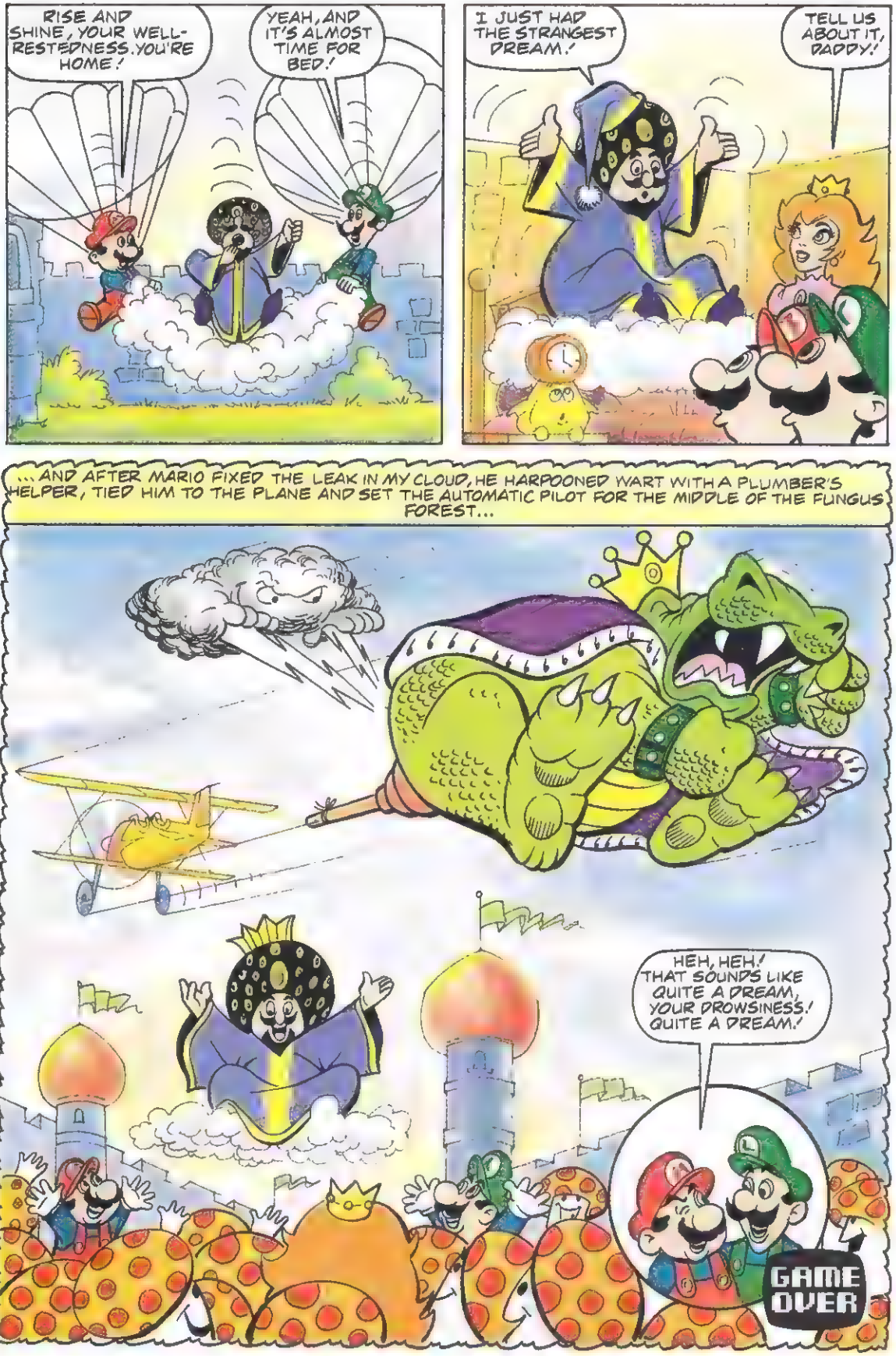

UH-OH! LOOKS LIKE THE KING DAMPENED THEIR ENTHUSIASM!
COME ON! I'VE GOT AN IDEA!
WAKE UP AND SMELL THE COFFEE!
STOP
THE KING IS A DRIP!
THE MONARCH IS ALL WET!
WHO'LL STOP THE REIGN?

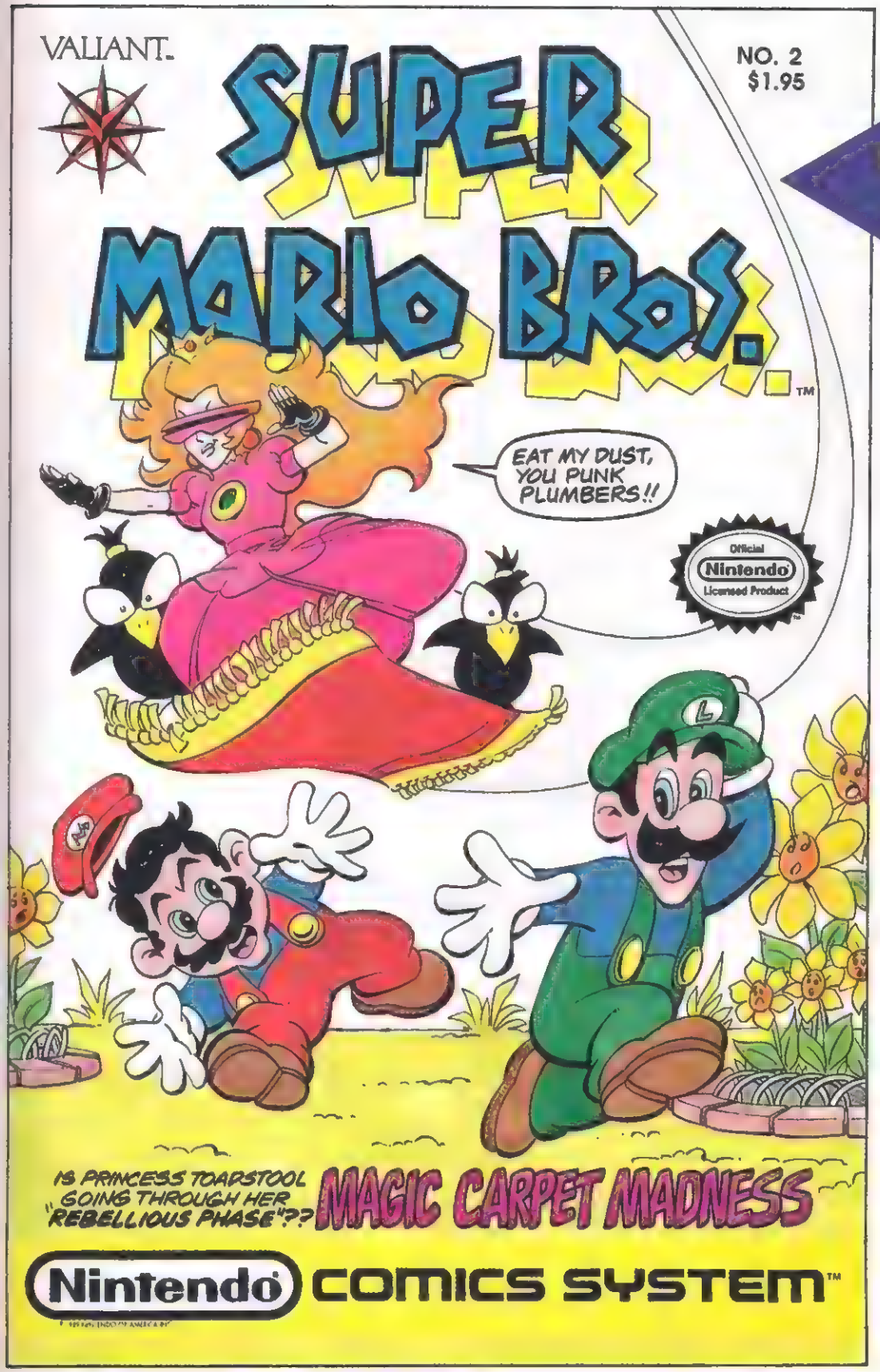

RRRRRRRRRR!!!
BOY! THESE OLD PLANES SURE ARE NOISY!
THAT'S NOT OUR PLANE THAT'S THE KING...SNORING!


CAN YOU FIX IT?
NO SWEAT! WHETHER IT'S A FAUCET OR A RAIN-CLOUD...A DRIP'S A DRIP!


SQUINK
THAT OUGHTA DO THE TRICK! AND NOW THERE'S JUST ONE MORE DRIP TO TAKE CARE OF...


LOOK IT'S STOPPED RAINING!
HOORAY! WE LIKE THE KING AGAIN!


RISE AND SHINE, YOUR WELL-RESTEDNESS. YOU'RE HOME!
YEAH, AND IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR BED!
I JUST HAD THE STRANGEST DREAM!
TELL US ABOUT IT, DADDY!
...AND AFTER MARIO FIXED THE LEAK IN MY CLOUD, HE HARPOONED WART WITH A PLUMBER'S HELPER, TIED HIM TO THE PLANE AND SET THE AUTOMATIC PILOT FOR THE MIDDLE OF THE FUNGUS FOREST...
HEH, HEH! THAT SOUNDS LIKE QUITE A DREAM, YOUR DROWSINESS! QUITE A DREAM!
GAME OVER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MAGIC CARPET MADNESS
Nintendo COMICS SYSTEM™

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APR 90

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